

Industrial Hazards and Disasters



Looking at Chemical Security
through the Lens of Emergency
Management Research

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Preview

- Industrial hazards and disasters
- Chemical security
- Prevention and Protection
- Mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
- Concluding observations



Industrial Hazards

- “Threats to people and life-support systems that arise from the mass production of goods and services. When these threats exceed human coping capabilities or the absorptive capacities of environmental systems they give rise to industrial disasters” (Mitchell 1996).

Industrial Disasters

- Types and examples
- Relation to the industrial process
- Occurrence at the intersection of people, property and product



Chemical Security

- Theft, diversion, sabotage, violence and terrorism are additional concerns



Prevention and Protection

- Recognize threats and take appropriate action as needed
- Control access to sensitive areas



Mitigation

- Ensure careful engineering of plants
- Complete a thorough risk assessment and publicize findings
- Follow established safety protocols



Preparedness

- Understand the debate about planning assumptions
- Avoid the paper plan syndrome



Response



- Implement the plan/plan to improvise
- Perform routine emergency functions
- Anticipate large media presence and prolonged community interest
- Avoid denial and minimization
- Share information judiciously

Recovery

- Expect the placement of blame and lawsuits
- The best time to implement change



Concluding Thoughts

- The challenge of integrating homeland security and emergency management priorities and practices



Picture Citations

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Thank you!

David A. McEntire
(940) 565-2996
mcentire@unt.edu

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